

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-199

Magi No. 2401995704

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Davis House

2. Location

street & number 17 South Main Street

 not for publication

city, town Berlin

 vicinity of

congressional district 1st

state Maryland

county

Worcester

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|---|
| <u> </u> district | <u> </u> public | <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <u> </u> agriculture |
| <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <u> </u> unoccupied | <u> </u> commercial |
| <u> </u> structure | <u> </u> both | <u> </u> work in progress | <u> </u> educational |
| <u> </u> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <u> </u> object | <u> </u> in process | <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <u> </u> entertainment |
| | <u> </u> being considered | <u> </u> yes: unrestricted | <u> </u> government |
| | <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <u> </u> no | <u> </u> industrial |
| | | | <u> </u> military |
| | | | <u> </u> museum |
| | | | <u> </u> park |
| | | | <u> </u> religious |
| | | | <u> </u> scientific |
| | | | <u> </u> transportation |
| | | | <u> </u> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name M. F. Davis

street & number 17 South Main Street

telephone no.: 301-641-0946

city, town Berlin

state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse

liber

street & number

Market Street

folio

city, town

Snow Hill

state

MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-199

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Davis house, 17 South Main Street, is the first dwelling south of Berlin's commercial district on the east side of South Main Street. It is situated close to the street on a plot of modest size.

The 2½ story wood frame house is a complex T-shaped plan with gable roofs, 5 x 5 bays. The stem of the "T" lies parallel with the street. Windows throughout except for those noted, are 1/1. The foundation is brick as are three chimneys located as follows: interior chimney in south facade gable end; interior chimney in north facade; interior chimney in roof peak rear wing.

The principal facade (west) features a cross gable formed by the top of the "T". The gable pediment contains fishscale shingles and a decorative colored glass window. Below, the side walls are cut away, creating a five-sided bay projection with windows in the three center bays. The two remaining bays on the front facade occur in the stem of the "T", the entrance being on the left with a window on the right. Second floor fenestration follows that of first floor. In the roof, over the first bay on the right, occurs a small cross gable with a lunette window and fishscale shingles. A one-story, hip-roofed verandah stretches across the front, extending forward around the bay projection and along part of the north side. The verandah has full Tuscan style columns, wooden steps.

The north facade is dominated by a centrally placed cross gable with the same decorative pediment features and cut-away corners as the front. The verandah joins the bay and a door is located in the right wall of the bay projection.

The rear wing of the house is markedly simple, lacking the decorative details of the west and north facades. A one-story shed roof porch, back door and steps are located on the south side.

The south facade of the front section, the base of the "T" is gable-ended with fishscale shingles in the pediment. A pair of windows flank the interior chimney on each floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-199

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Davis house, highly visible from Berlin's commercial center, is an important member of Berlin's historic district setting the tone for a large number of turn-of-the-century houses that lie to the south. It was originally the third house in a row of five, similar in scale, materials and placement, but the two houses on its north side fell to commercial development. It now plays an anchor role for the historic district.

Survey No. WO-199